

offer some form of job training and/or employment assistance for youth and adults. In addition to the excessive number of Federal programs, the quality of U.S. training programs varies significantly. Last Congress, several important legislative initiatives were introduced with the goal of consolidating Federal job training programs—however with the advent of the new Congress, we have determined to take a step back, and to carefully examine all programs before our committee's jurisdiction, particularly those programs offering some form of employment or training assistance, to determine the best approach to be taken in development of a consolidated and reformed workforce preparation system.

The legislation we are introducing today, begins a vital transformation process—consolidating and reforming the numerous Federal workforce preparation and development programs that currently exist in this country—from a collection of fragmented and duplicative categorical programs into a streamlined, comprehensive, coherent, high-quality, cost-effective, and accountable workforce preparation and development system, designed to meet the education, employment and training needs of the U.S. workforce both today and in the future.

Specifically, the Workforce Preparation and Development Act, states that prior to the end of the 104th Congress, all Federal workforce preparation and development programs will be thoroughly evaluated to determine the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of such programs. The legislation further pledges the enactment of legislation by the end of the 104th Congress that: First, eliminates duplication and fragmentation in Federal workforce preparation and development programs through the consolidation and where appropriate elimination of such programs; second, transfers major decision-making to States and local communities for the design, governance, and implementation of comprehensive, integrated workforce preparation systems; third, stresses the vital role of the private sector, at all levels, in the design and implementation of a national workforce preparation system, and encourages the utilization of State and local employer-led boards responsible for strategic planning and program oversight of State and local systems; fourth, establishes a national workforce preparation system that—is market driven and accountable, reinforces individual responsibility through attachment to employment, and provides customer choice and easy access to services; and fifth, establishes a national labor market information system that provides employers, job seekers, students, teachers, training providers, and others with accurate and timely information on the local economy, on occupations in demand and the skill requirements for such occupations, and information on the performance of service providers in the local community. Finally, the Workforce Preparation and Development Act calls for the repeal of existing workforce preparation and development programs, as appropriate, upon enactment of reform legislation.

The skills levels of this Nation's workforce are more important today than ever before to U.S. competitiveness, however our current patchwork of Federal programs is not the answer. In my new role as chairman of the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training and Lifelong Learning, I will have the opportunity to make changes in these Federal education and job training programs to create

a seamless system for youth and adults to meet the competitive needs of our workforce. I believe that the Workforce Preparation and Development Act sets the stage for meaningful reform, and I invite all of my colleagues to join with us in this exciting reform process.

HONORING STATE SENATOR
GWENDOLYNNE MOORE, 1995 WIS-
CONSIN NOW FEMINIST OF THE
YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 1995

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Milwaukee woman I have certainly grown to admire and respect over the years, State Senator Gwendolynne S. Moore.

In 1992, Senator Moore became the first African-American woman elected to the Wisconsin State Senate. Prior to her election to the Senate, she served two successful terms in the Wisconsin Assembly, representing a district on the north side of the city of Milwaukee.

Gwen Moore's deep commitment to her community began long before she won elective office, however. Active in housing issues, Gwen has worked for the city of Milwaukee as a neighborhood development specialist and as a housing officer for the State of Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority [WHEDA]. She continued her fight for safe and affordable housing as a State representative and a member of WHEDA's Board of Directors, where she was instrumental in the development of the "Heart of Milwaukee," an award-winning campaign to increase home ownership in my hometown.

Over the years, Senator Moore has been a tireless crusader for the rights of poor women and children. And, as an elected official, she has included money in the State budget for a Milwaukee hospital which serves the uninsured and she has authored drug abatement legislation.

For all of the reasons given here and for the many ways she has personally touched the lives of her constituents, and in light of her seemingly endless potential to continue to be a leader in Milwaukee, in Wisconsin, and on a national level, I am pleased to congratulate State Senator Gwen Moore on being named the Wisconsin National Organization for Women [NOW] 1995 Feminist of the Year.

UNFUNDED FEDERAL MANDATES

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, like a parasite feeding off of its host, unfunded mandates linger in the life of every American. The people are fed up. They want government out of their lives. Government exists to serve the needs of the people. The people do not serve the needs of the government.

It is time to end this Federal oppression. Congress takes the credit but sidesteps the cost—leaving State and local governments to bear the burden of the beast. Limiting government will tame this beast and restore account-

ability. Congress must listen to the people, not tell them what to do.

Our forefathers did not envision a government that controls and manipulates the people, but one that works for and with the people. Shrinking the Federal Government and abolishing unfunded Federal mandates will give back to the people what is rightfully theirs—freedom.

A TRIBUTE TO ED MADIGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to participate in today's special order in honor of our former colleague Ed Madigan, and I commend my colleague from Illinois, Congressman EWING, for organizing this tribute.

I was very saddened to learn of Ed Madigan's death on December 7, 1994, and I join my colleagues in sending my condolences to his wife, daughters, and entire family.

I was fortunate to have known and worked with Ed Madigan for over two decades and I can say quite assuredly that he will be missed by his many friends and colleagues here in Washington, DC, and in his home State, Illinois. Throughout his 10 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Madigan was hard working, effective, and much respected. He knew that working together with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle would allow him to achieve the goals sought by he and his constituents and he excelled at this approach to policymaking. As a result, he quickly earned a reputation that he maintained throughout his career in Congress and as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, a reputation for being an honest and skilled consensus builder who could get the job done.

From Illinois Junior Chamber of Commerce 1965 "Young Man of the Year," to member of the Illinois House of Representatives, to chairman of the House Republican Research Committee, to ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee, to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Madigan served his constituents in east central Illinois and Americans across this country well. He has left a solid legacy as a public servant that will be long remembered and much missed.

ABELARDO VALDEZ

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw my colleagues attention to an opinion piece that appeared in the Washington Times on December 9, 1994. In his discussion, Ambassador Abelardo Valdez brings to light the importance of hemispheric free trade. The Ambassador rightly points out that NAFTA was the first installment toward a united Western Hemisphere. In fact, Ambassador Valdez